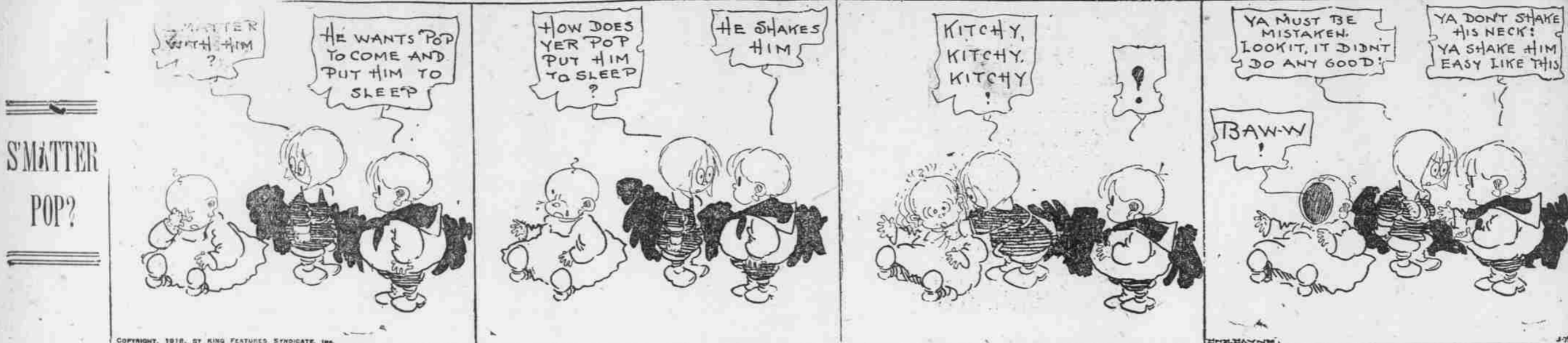


TIMES SPORTING PAGE



Not So Sure Browns Got Best Of The Pratt Deal

St. Louis Critics Want to See Cullip, Maisel and Shocker In Action Before Crowing Too Loudly.

New York, Jan. 28.—After the first wave of joy over getting five husky ball players for two dissatisfied ones, the St. Louis critics are not so sure that Bobby Quinn, business manager of the Browns, "put it over" on Miller Huggins as to a great extent in the Pratt deal. There is a disposition now to suspend judgment and wait until the men actually play ball before crowing too much over the shrewdness of the St. Louis man as a trader. They are coming to realize that Fielder Jones is gambling on the 1918 ability of at least four of the quintet sent from New York, and he stands a chance of losing as well as winning. J. B. Sheridan has this to say in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat: "Discussion of the deal is highly imprudent by 'ifs.' If Cullip pitches up to his 1916 form, 'if' Maisel plays up to the form he showed in 1915, 'if' Shocker works in the style he worked in the fall of 1915 (see the sharp) the trade will be a good one for the Browns. 'If' all these men drop back to the form of 1917 the Browns won't gain much, no matter how poorly Pratt may do in New York.

"The proposition 'if' attaches itself to Pratt, too. 'If' Pratt hits up to his 1915 form, 250, with lots of long drives in it, and fields up to his 1915 form, New York will have a valuable man. 'If' Pratt falls to his 240 batting average of 1915-17, and to his fielding average of 1917, New York will not have so much of a star."

"The proposition 'if' attaches itself to the deal the Globe-Democrat had this interesting story to tell of Nick Cullip:

"Cullip has the fortune of knocking St. Louis, managed by Fielder Jones, now manager of the Browns, out of the first league championship in the last game of the season. With Easterly, Rawlins and Perring of Kansas City on the bases in the fifth inning, Cullip doubled to right center off Davenport, scoring all three runners. Kansas City won, 4-1, so it will be seen that Cullip not only hit in the runs that won, but he also held St. Louis to a very low score. As Chicago won from Pittsburgh on that day and divided a double-header on the following day, Tinker's team won the flag in the closest race known in baseball. A fraction of three-thousandths gave Chicago the pennant."

ZBYSZKO READY FOR OLIN BOUT

New York, Jan. 28.—Waldemar Zbyszko, John Olin, Joe Stecher and Yussif Hussane, the quartet of wrestling stars that meet at Madison Square Garden tomorrow night, are all fit waiting the call to arms. For the past few weeks the scrapping stars worked steadily to reach their best possible condition, for the result of this match means many things to those concerned.

Zbyszko is risking his title in his match with Olin, and none doubts that the Polish Hercules will be at his very best before he will take the chance of losing his coveted championship crown. Olin worked just as hard—in fact, harder—than Zbyszko, for it means fortune to him if he is fortunate enough to down the champion.

Stecher is determined to show his best tomorrow night for he is practically a stranger within our gates, having only appeared here once. To the wrestling world he is known as the inventor of the deadly "body scissors" hold, a grip that forced many unwilling victims to throw up the sponge before their ribs were crushed.

In tackling Hussane, the Western marvel is matching his strength and skill with an opponent who has improved wonderfully within the past year. This match will be the thriller, for the winner will be in a position to challenge the winner of the Zbyszko-Olin duel.

FAMOUS SKATER DEAD

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 29.—John K. McCulloch, 20 years ago amateur skating champion of the world, died in a hospital here last night. McCulloch, a Canadian, also was known as a cyclist.

CANADA SEEKING MAJOR BASEBALL

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 28.—Baseball fans in Toronto do not expect to be without their portion of games next season, regardless of how the war may affect the local activities here. Plans are being made to have several major league teams from the United States play games. Sol Solman of the Toronto club is quoted as being in favor of such a proposal. Mr. Solman states:

"The experience of the Chicago Nationals, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, and New York Americans in Toronto last summer has caused the club to be deluged with applications for exhibition games at the Island Stadium next year.

"Should the international magnates at their schedule meeting on Feb. 12 decide that it would be inadvisable to play ball during the 1918 season, it is proposed to bring the Washington team to Toronto for an entire series with the Western teams of the American league, viz., the world's champion Chicago White Sox, Detroit Tigers, Cleveland Indians, and St. Louis Browns. The proposal is for 15 consecutive games at the Island Stadium, each of the Western teams playing four games with the Washington team at Toronto instead of at Washington. The Toronto and Washington teams are now negotiating to this end."

YANKS "CROSSED" BY MACK ON STRUNK

New York, Jan. 28.—Colonel Jacob Ruppert, president of the Yankees, has openly declared himself against certain American League club owners. It seems that the Colonel has not been given a fifty-fifty deal in his quest for talent that would strengthen the local club, and, naturally, he is peeved and up in arms.

The Yankees expected to land Amos Strunk from the Athletics, but Harry Frazee, the Red Sox owner, bested the Colonel to the best and hard-hitting outfielder. Now, Ruppert doesn't blame the Hub magnate for securing Strunk, but Connie Mack isn't in as good standing with the Colonel as he was a few weeks ago.

Mack had promised to give the Yankees an opportunity to bid on Strunk. It all happened during last season. Bill Donovan, who was then at the helm of the local team, had informed the Colonel that he would like to see Amos wearing Yankee spangles. So Ruppert decided to purchase Strunk if he was for sale.

So that there would be no leak, Mack and Ruppert decided to meet in Trenton, N. J., far away from suspecting newspaper scribes. Ruppert told Mack that he was willing to hand over a bunch of coin for Strunk. But Connie declared that he didn't want to part with Amos alone, but that he would take \$75,000 for Strunk, Bush and Schang.

However, Ruppert at that time sought only Strunk. Connie finally said that he might consider selling his star outfielder, but didn't know just what price he wanted for the player.

But before the meeting broke up, Mack promised to give Ruppert a chance to bid for Strunk whenever he was put on the market. And that chance never came, for Mack sold Amos to the Red Sox without even letting the Colonel know a thing about it.

So, Connie Mack is off Colonel Ruppert's calling list.

Talk Of Sports

The poor old Tigers! Now that they've lost Howard Ehmke through enlistment their pitching staff has been badly crippled. Maybe Harry Coveleskie can come back—and if Hugh Jennings can help it, he will.

"As an ill wind, and so forth. Many of the minor leaguers who never would have had a chance in the major outfit are going to be called upon to fill in for the men who have gone into the army and navy. And many of the big leaguers will find themselves permanently displaced when the world once more settles down to peace.

Barney Dreyfuss is angling for Catcher Frank Snyder of the Cardinals. Barney has a lot of good bait, and no doubt Snyder and the Cardinals will bite before long.

Some one is constantly taking the joy out of Fred Fulton's life. The ponderous plasterer had just got a match with Tom Cowler when the Cumberland Mountain was drafted. Cowler is a man that Fulton can beat six days a week, afternoon and evening.

Baseball Fans Will Need Card Index

DILLON TO BOX 20 ROUNDS TO A DECISION

New York, Jan. 28.—One of the first real boxing bouts of any importance held in any of the army training camps will be staged on Washington's Birthday in Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss. It will be between Jack Dillon, the Hoosier Bearcat and former American light-heavyweight champion, and Sergeant "K. O." Bob Martin of the Camp Shelby military police.

The bout will be for 20 rounds with a referee's decision. One of the three New Orleans referees, Jake Wambegans, Dick Burke or Lew Rose, will be the third man in the ring. It will be fought in a ring pitched in one of the parade grounds and will be witnessed by 25,000 soldiers and guests.

The bout will be under the direction of Melvin W. Sheppard, the civilian aid in charge of athletics at Camp Shelby. The mill will be preceded by the final bouts in the various classes in the tournament now going on at Camp Shelby to determine the various champions of the cantonment. Martin, the present heavyweight champion of Camp Shelby, will not defend his title, but will try to gain fame for the army by whipping Dillon.

ONE PUNCH HAS WON FAMOUS BATTLES

Many famous pugilistic bouts have been won with a single punch, but the quickest knockout ever scored in a contest between top-notchers was that of Matty Mathews over Kid McFarland in Brooklyn sixteen years ago tonight. Both men were championship contenders, and Mathews soon afterward attained welterweight honors by defeating Mysterious Billy Smith and Rube Ferns.

Both Matty and the Kid were at their best in the previous year, and both were anxious for a return engagement. The fight was staged in a street car barn, and it was filled with rabid fans. When the bell sounded both men sprang toward each other. McFarland punched at Mathews with his left, and had just started a jab when—bling—a right with every ounce of strength in Matty's body behind it landed on the Kid's jaw. It was all over, for McFarland was unconscious for some time after the count. They fought again the following year, but McFarland was wary, and he stuck 17 rounds before Matty was declared the victor.

The shortest fight on record is usually given as that between Dal Hawkins and Martin Flaherty at Carson City in 1897, when the California bantamweight knocked out the Philadelphia fighter with one punch, after seconds of fighting. About the shortest championship battle was that between Terry McGovern and Pedlar Palmer at Tuckahoe, N. Y., in 1899. This contest was for the bantamweight title, and the spectators had hardly had time to cheer with his left, and had just started a jab when—bling—a right with every ounce of strength in Matty's body behind it landed on the Kid's jaw. It was all over, for McFarland was unconscious for some time after the count. They fought again the following year, but McFarland was wary, and he stuck 17 rounds before Matty was declared the victor.

Another mighty funny title battle was that between Joe Gans and Frank Erne in 1902, at Fort Erie, Canada. Erne, the negro, became lightweight champion of the world with one punch, which stretched Erne out for the count.

The battle at Langtry, Tex., between Fitzsimmons and Peter Maher, back in 1896, was another classic example of this kind. The two fighters were on their feet for two minutes when Peter led off with a blow which Fitz declared was one of the hardest he had ever received. It didn't stop Bob, and he almost immediately retaliated with a punch which sent Peter down for the count.

Tom Sharkey and Gus Ruhlin the surprise of his life at Coney Island in 1898, when the sailor's first punch found a vulnerable spot in Gus' anatomy, and sent him staggering down and out. Another famous one-punch knockout bout was pulled off at Colma, Cal., in 1907, when Tommy Burns fought Bill Squires, the widely touted Australian lemon. One wallop knocked Squires cold. The fans at Colma saw another battle of this kind the following year, when Stanley Ketchel took just one hit at Mike (Twin) Sullivan, and rocked him to sleep.

Number of Players Involved In Trades and Cash Swapped Never Equalled In Similar Period.

New York, Jan. 28.—If the present epidemic of trades and cash deals continues in the major league it will be necessary to supply the baseball fan with a card index of the players when the 1918 season opens. During no similar period of time in the history of the National and American leagues has the number of player shifts equalled those consummated since the close of last year's pennant races. Not only in the number of players exchanged but in the magnitude of the deals have new records been established. Close to forty players and more than \$150,000 in cash is the aggregate involved and if the magnates' statements are correct other similar transactions are still to be completed.

In the American League four deals involving twenty players and sums approaching close to the \$100,000 mark have been made to date with an average of five players to a deal. The National League clubs have figured in an equal number of trades but the average number of players concerned is not so high. Less cash, however, was needed as far as is known three of the five were made without the passing of either checks or currency.

From a numerical standpoint the deal between the New York and St. Louis clubs of the American League heads the list. Seven players are expected to change uniforms as a result of this transaction, in addition to a sum of money, said to be about \$15,000, paid to St. Louis by the New York magnates. The Philadelphia Athletics-Boston Red Sox transfers come next, six players and about \$60,000 being involved. This was immediately followed by the Melinn deal, which is said to include the exchange of three Boston players for the Athletics first baseman. Should such be the case the total would include ten men in all, a record deal in modern baseball annals.

In the National League, the Brooklyn-Pittsburgh transfer is the biggest as the Pirates gave three Pittsburgh players for two Superbas.

Four players were involved in the Philadelphia-Chicago trade whereby the Cubs secured Alexander and Killifer for Dillhoefer and Prendergast and a sum of money reported to be at least \$50,000. The Chicago-Boston and the New York-Boston trades were interlocking as Larry Doyle went from Chicago to Boston and in turn was passed on to New York by the Boston Braves. These are not the only transactions made since the close of last season but the following list contains the names of the players and clubs figuring in the principal shifts:

American League

Pratt, 2b., from St. Louis to New York; Plank, p., from St. Louis to New York; Gedeon, 2b., from New York to St. Louis; Nunamaker, c., from New York to St. Louis; Maisel, 2b., from New York to St. Louis; Shocker, p., from New York to St. Louis; Cullip, p., from New York to St. Louis. Money involved, \$15,000.

Shooter, c.f., from St. Louis to Washington; Lavan, s.s., from St. Louis to Washington; Gallia, p., from Washington to St. Louis. Money involved, \$15,000.

McMinn, 1b., from Philadelphia to Boston; Cady, c., from Boston to Philadelphia; Gardner, 3b., from Boston to Philadelphia; Walker, o.f., from Boston to Philadelphia. *Managed Mack's reported selections.

Schance, c., from Philadelphia to Boston; Bush, p., from Philadelphia to Boston; Strunk, o.f., from Philadelphia to Boston; Grex, p., from Boston to Philadelphia; Thomas, c., from Boston to Philadelphia; Kopf, o.f., from Boston to Philadelphia. Money involved, \$60,000.

National League

Alexander, p., from Philadelphia to Chicago; Killifer, c., from Philadelphia to Chicago; Dillhoefer, c., from Chicago to Philadelphia; Prendergast, p., from Chicago to Philadelphia. Money involved, \$50,000.

Williams, o.f., from Chicago to Philadelphia; Faskert, o.f., from Philadelphia to Chicago.

Doyle, 2b., from Chicago to Boston; Wilson, c., from Chicago to Boston; Tyler, p., from Boston to Chicago. Money involved, \$15,000.

Doyle, 2b., from Boston to New York; Barnes, p., from Boston to New York; Herzog, 2b., from New York to Boston.

Cutshaw, 2b., from Brooklyn to Pittsburgh; Stengel, o.f., from Brooklyn to Pittsburgh; Mammox, p., from Pittsburgh to Brooklyn; Grimes, p., from Pittsburgh to Brooklyn; Ward, l.f., from Pittsburgh to Brooklyn.

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Such a well-balanced Turkish blend is worth while. Fatimas never disturb—even though you may smoke more often than usual.

—the price 15¢



MAY ABANDON TRIPS TO SOUTHERN CAMPS

New York, Jan. 28.—Several managers in the major leagues have sent out word to their players to begin daily exercising so as to be in condition for the coming season in case the spring training trips have to be abandoned on account of the congested railroad conditions or bad weather. It is the first time that the major leagues have ever asked their athletes to train at home and report in the best physical condition. While for years club owners have argued that a high-priced employee, such as a ball player, should keep in the best condition all the year, none of them has been able to put such a rule into effect, and each season the club has to stand the great expense of the Southern training trip.

This is the first indication from the baseball men that they realize a possibility of having to give up spring training this year. They have received private advice that by the middle of March, when the players are planning to go South, the movement of troops and supplies will be so great that the regular passenger traffic will be in much worse shape than it is now.

Becoming alarmed at this possibility, some of the clubs have asked their players to spend the time between now and reporting time in gymnasiums, if possible, and if not in some form of daily exercise, which will keep them in shape for the coming campaign.

As a rule ball players take it easy during the winter months, and when they report at the spring training camps the trainer has to spend much of his time in working off all the excess poundage which has been accumulated during the winter.

While many ball players take exercise during the winter by playing

basketball, this practice has been frowned upon by the managers because of the risk of injury. What the managers suggest now is handball, daily jaunts over the roads, dumb bell and Indian club exercises and general gymnasium work wherever it is possible. Many of the ball players spend most of their off time hunting and they are usually in good shape when spring comes around. It is the players who spend the winter months in the city that the managers are advising to start training as soon as possible.

It is not only the curtailed railroad facilities which are worrying the baseball folks, but also the unheard of weather in the South this winter. The Southern States have never known such cold weather as they have had during the last few weeks and there is no more indication of a letup than there is here in the North. In every part of the South where baseball clubs have training camps, the weather this winter has already approached the zero mark.

Advice from the South indicate that the South expects the latest spring on record. Baseball clubs have encountered bad weather on the Southern training trips in the past and the results have always been disastrous. So the reasons for the managers in calling upon their players to condition at home are twofold.

Few clubs cover their expenses on the spring training trips. Of late years it has been necessary to arrange barn storming trips of exhibition games between clubs of the two leagues to furnish an attraction in a Southern city. Many club owners would welcome a chance to save this early training expense during the war, at least.

LACK OF YOUNG GIRLS RECEIVING BALL PLAYERS ATTENTION NOW IN SPORTS

New York, Jan. 28.—The war has struck at the very foundation of professional baseball, but the effects of the blow will not be felt for a year or two. The world conflict has forced practically all of the minor leagues to go out of business and now we see college after college come forward with the announcement that it will support no baseball team this spring. Ever since Connie Mack showed the way, the major leagues have been keeping a close watch on college ball players. With the varsity diamonds and the minor leagues developing no new products the calibre of the future major league player is bound to suffer. The owners are cutting salaries now, but the end of the war will bring about conditions that will force them to go higher for first class performers than they ever went before. The tactics of some of the owners at present are frightening a good many youngsters away from professional baseball, and the more are frightened away the better for those frightened.

Now that Johnny Ertle has been defeated by a second rated named Kid Wolfe of Cleveland the Kewpie's pretensions to the title are much less impressive than formerly.

THE VERDICT

Judge—"What is the verdict of the jury?" Foreman—"Your Honor, the jury are all of one mind—temporarily insane."—Everybody's Magazine.

New York, Jan. 28.—The decision of the Women's Metropolitan Golf association to conduct a tournament for girls is in line with the national movement to encourage the development of the younger idea in competitive sport. Some time ago the women tennis players decided to hold a metropolitan championship tourney for girls at the West Side club. Under the old scheme girls who aspired to some position in the tennis world or who desired the fun of competition were forced to meet much older and more experienced players.

Some of the girls triumphed in spite of these handicaps, but the conditions in general precluded a healthy growth of the junior tennis propaganda among the fair sex. It is hoped that the setting aside of certain events for girls of the school age will bring about some of the fine results obtained among the boys.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE IS FORMED

New York, Jan. 28.—The National Hockey League, comprising the Wanderers of this city, the Boston Arena seven, the Charlestown Navy Yard team and the Pittsburgh A. A. seven, has arranged a schedule of 24 games to decide the championship of the East. One of the contests, that between the Wanderers and the Arena team, was played last Saturday in Boston.